

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of December 28, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that at least some of the layers printed are of different materials and that each printhead initially configured to print at least part of a respective layer of a respective material is dynamically reconfigured to print at least part of another layer of another material. Support for these amendments can be found at page 31, line 21-page 42, line 3 of the present specification; and dependent claims 2-8, 11, 12 and 17-21 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8, 11, 12 and 17-21 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by any one or more of previously cited Penn, Klaus, O'Connor and Hermanson in view of newly cited Silverbrook (US 5,984,446), for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 recites that at least some of the layers printed are of different materials and that each printhead initially configured to print at least part of a respective layer of a respective material is dynamically reconfigured to print at least part of another layer of another material (see page 31, line 21-page 42, line 3 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Penn specifically discloses providing different printheads 20 and 30,270 for printing different materials (col. 7, lines 16-44 and col. 16, lines 35-45), Hermanson specifically discloses a system in which if nozzles in one color printbar fail to eject drops then nozzles from printbars of different colors are used to substitute for the failed drops (see col. 2, lines 15-28), Klaus and O'Connor do not teach or suggest any type of printhead reconfiguration, and Silverbrook merely discloses providing redundant nozzles within a printhead (col. 19, lines 1-6).

Thus, based on the disclosure of Hermanson, in any combination with Penn, one of ordinary skill in the art would only be motivated to have the printhead 30,270 print its material in place of the material printed by printhead 20, if printhead 20 fails, because Hermanson specifically teaches using a printbar(s) for one color ink (i.e., one material) in place of a failed printbar of a different color ink (i.e., a different material).

Further, based on the disclosure of Silverbrook, in any combination with Penn and Hermanson (and Klaus and O'Connor), one of ordinary skill in the art would only be motivated to provide each printhead 20 and 30,270 with redundant nozzles.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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